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Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SS-15 SSO-00 LAB-04 SIL-01
EB-08 L-03 DOE-15 SOE-02 TRSE-00 HA-05 VO-03
CA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /084 R

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ARA/PPC:CUBBISON (DRAFT)
H:E.KRIZEK (DRAFT)
D:L.PASCOE
----------065148 110038Z /62
O R 102313Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

UNCLAS STATE 119746

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SGEN, MX

SUBJECT:SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON ILLEGAL
IMMIGRATION

1. ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL AND DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTO-
PHER, APPEARING AS FIRST OF SERIES OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH
WITNESSES, TESTIFIED AT SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
MORNING OF MAY 10 ON ADMINISTRATION'S ALIEN ADJUSTMENT
AND EMPLOYMENT ACT (S.2252). ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPENING
STATEMENT OUTLINED IN SOME DETAIL MAIN FEATURES OF THE
LEGISLATION AND THEIR OBJECTIVES, STRESSING THEIR
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INTERLINKAGE IN COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO COMPLEX PROBLEM
OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION. SENATOR EASTLAND, WHO OPENED
HEARINGS IN CHAIR, POSTPONED QUESTIONS TO ATTORNEY GENERAL
UNTIL LATER DATE WHEN MORE SENATORS WOULD BE PRESENT.
IN ADDITION TO EASTLAND, SENATORS PRESENT DURING
HEARINGS WERE DECONCINI, WHO TOOK CHAIR AFTER EASTLAND'S
DEPARTURE, THURMOND AND BAYH. SESSION WAS HEAVILY

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ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF PRESS, IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS AND ETHNIC GROUPS.

2. DEPUTY SECRETARY'S OPENING STATEMENT COVERED FOREIGN AFFAIRS IMPLICATIONS OF ADMINISTRATION'S PROGRAM. IT

STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF UNIFORM NATIONAL APPROACH TO PROBLEM TO SUPPLANT CURRENT TENDENCY TOWARD STATE AND LOCAL ACTIONS IN DEALING WITH UNDOCUMENTED AND IMPORTANCE OF BRINGING ILLEGALS UNDER FULL PROTECTION OF LAW TO PREVENT EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE. DEPUTY SECRETARY, IN CITING ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO ADDRESS "PUSH FACTORS," MENTIONED MEXICO'S UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT OF NEARLY FIFTY PERCENT AND ENTRANCE OF 800 THOUSAND NEW WORKERS INTO LABOR FORCE EACH YEAR. (COPY OF DEPUTY SECRETARY'S OPENING STATEMENT BEING BROUGHT TO EMBASSY MEXICO BY ALTERNATE COUNTRY DIRECTOR BITTNER.)

3. SENATOR DECONCINI SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON CURRENT THINKING ON U.S. ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO, WILLINGNESS OF MEXICAN OFFICIALS TO COOPERATE IN ADDRESSING PROBLEM IN VIEW OF APPARENT ADVANTAGES TO GOM OF EXISTING SITUATION, PROSPECTS FOR USE OF OIL AND GAS REVENUES IN MEXICAN DEVELOPMENT, CURRENT STATUS OF PROPOSED NATURAL GAS DEAL, AND PROSPECTS FOR SOME FORM OF FORMAL OR UNCLASSIFIED

INFORMAL TEMPORARY WORKER ARRANGEMENT WITH MEXICO.

4. IN REPLIES, DEPUTY SECRETARY CITED EFFORTS TO HELP MEXICAN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH TRADE IMPROVEMENT AND IFI LENDING, AND STRESSED MEXICO'S ANNOUNCED INTENTIONS TO DEVOTE OIL REVENUES TO DEVELOPMENT. HE AFFIRMED THAT MEXICAN AUTHORITIES WERE COMMITTED TO COOPERATE IN SOLVING PROBLEM, NOTING THAT WE TAKE PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO AT HIS WORD WHEN HE SAYS MEXICO WANTS TO EXPORT ITS PRODUCTS, NOT ITS PEOPLE. HE REFERRED TO MEXICAN COOPERATION ALONG THE BORDER IN CURBING ALIEN SMUGGLERS AND DOCUMENT FORGERS. REGARDING TEMPORARY WORKER ARRANGEMENT, DEPUTY SECRETARY NOTED THAT WE HAVE HAD NO PROPOSALS FROM GOM AND WE HAVE NO CURRENT PLANS FOR SUCH AGREEMENT. U.S. CAN MEET LIMITED NEEDS THROUGH H-2, WHICH WE NOW CONSIDER SATISFACTORY. ON NATURAL GAS, DEPUTY SECRETARY AGAIN MADE POINT THAT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON ENERGY NEEDED BEFORE WE CAN PURSUE NEGOTIATIONS FURTHER WITH MEXICO.

5. SENATOR DECONCINI ALSO ASKED WHETHER, IN VIEW OF ABSENCE OF GOOD STATISTICS ON ILLEGALS, THERE SHOULD BE

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FURTHER EFFORTS TO GATHER DATA BEFORE LEGISLATIVE ACTION. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT OUR DATA HAD SHORTCOMINGS, DEPUTY SECRETARY NOTED THAT VERY NATURE OF PROBLEM MADE IT UNLIKELY STATISTICS WOULD EVER BE COMPLETE. HE ADDED THAT GOVERNMENT AT TIMES REQUIRED TO ACT ON PROBLEM

WITHOUT AWAITING COMPLETE INFORMATION AND THIS WAS SUCH A CASE.

6. SESSION CONCLUDED AFTER ABOUT ONE HOUR BUT WILL RESUME MAY 11 WITH TESTIMONY OF LABOR SECRETARY MARSHALL AND ACTING SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSIONER WORTMAN. VANCE

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Comment:
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